

**AN APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING
REDUNDANT WIRELESS ACCESS TO FIELD DEVICES IN A
DISTRIBUTED CONTROL SYSTEM**
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus provides redundant wireless to access field devices in a distributed control system having primary access to the field devices provided by hard-wired media that couples the field devices to the control room. The field devices are coupled to a Fieldbus control network. In a first embodiment, each field device is provided with a wireless Fieldbus port that is accessible by a wireless terminal. In a second embodiment, each Fieldbus control network is provided with a field module having a wireless Fieldbus port that allows all devices connected to the Fieldbus control network to be accessed by a wireless terminal. In a third embodiment, an H2-to-H1 Fieldbus bridge (which may service a plurality of H1 control networks) is provided with a wireless Fieldbus port that allows all Fieldbus devices connected to H1 control networks serviced by the H2-to-H1 bridge to be accessed by a wireless handheld unit of a wireless terminal. The redundant wireless access provided by the present invention allows a control room operator to access field devices in the event of failure or unavailability of the hard-wired media that provides primary access to the field devices.

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